

The Bisbee Daily Review

Published Every Day Except Monday by the
State Consolidated Publishing Company

Editorial Rooms—Phone No. 39, 2 rings.
Business Office—Phone No. 39.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

SINGLE COPIES, Daily	.....	10c
PER MONTH	.....	2.75
THREE MONTHS	.....	7.50
SIX MONTHS	.....	13.50
TWELVE MONTHS	.....	25.00
SUNDAY (Our Weekly) per year	.....	2.50
SUNDAY (Our Weekly) per quarter	.....	75c

No subscription taken for less than 75c.

Subscribers who fail to receive their paper promptly are requested to notify the business office.

Advertising Rates on Application.
Entered as second-class mail matter.

Tuesday Morning, May 4, 1915

CONSULT THE RECORD

It seems to be fairly well agreed that one of the primary causes of disagreement in the legislative halls in Phoenix concerns the question of eliminating or perpetuating the so-called Land Commission. It would seem to us that the question lends itself to primarily easy solution, that is, if the discussion is undertaken in good faith. It would seem to us that those who champion the Commission are in a position to present a particularly strong case if, indeed, the case possesses merit.

The commission has been in existence two years. Surely, two years furnish sufficient time in which to demonstrate a reason for existence. Surely, two years are ample in which to build up a record that must be convincing. The Commission and those who stand for it are less than courageous if they hesitate to stand or fall on this record. Critics of the Commission are more than crass if they have based their opposition on untenable grounds, assailing an institution which has only to reply "our deeds speak for us," in order to establish its right of perpetuation.

Critics of the Commission charge that its principal excuse for existence is to furnish friends of the administration with jobs. In other words, to add spokes to the wheels of a political machine. This charge can be immediately refuted if the administration has the material for refutation. Perusal of the TWO YEARS' RECORD will show whether or not this material exists.

Let the administration spare no pains in lending to the RECORD all possible publicity. If necessary publish a brochure on the subject. Inform the people what the Commission has cost the taxpayers—because the taxpayers are justly interested in the matter of state expenses. Inform the people what has been returned to them for their outlay—because the taxpayers are justly entitled to know when it is demonstrated to them that they have received benefits in due proportion to costs.

The discussion is entirely outside the realm of politics. It has to do solely with State business. Any effort to drag the question into politics ought to convict the offenders of perversity and discredit their case. If the Commission has performed a public service—if the men composing it have proved themselves efficient in their work—the institution is entitled to remain and its present personnel reaffirmed. If, on the other hand, the Commission is unnecessary and its usefulness even as an experiment is at an end, let it be dissolved without regret.

Let whatever action is taken be guided by an inflexible appeal to that TWO YEARS' RECORD.

THE Y. M. C. A. WHIRLWIND

Occasions are not frequent where a community may exert itself to an end which is assured of working definitely to the common good. Most projects are indicted in some way with a tincture of selfishness. There will be legitimate gain for the some but not for the all.

A communal occasion is presented in the Warren district by the plans to increase the membership of the Young Men's Christian Association to 1000. As an incentive to success in the undertaking, the Copper Queen company volunteers a reward of \$10,000 in the event of the membership goal being attained. The benefits which will accrue from the handsome gift will be shared by the community as well as by those who constitute the organization as it will be made up when the roll-call is answered by a thousand members or more.

The "whirlwind campaign," as the promoters choose to call it, is more than a revival in the usually accepted sense of the word. It is less a religious revival than a civic revival. Its purpose is to create a healthy agitation for decency in living. The promoters seek to do more than introduce men into an atmosphere where wholesomeness and the attributes of contentment prevail. It is especially true in a mining camp that opportunity for companionship is limited. Men are gregarious creatures, they like to "get together." They like to tell stories and listen to stories. They like to rub elbows. They like to enter into vital things as expressed in athletics and games of all sorts. They like to frolic or fight "with the pack." And, by preference, they will turn to pleasant humors to do these things if the opportunity is presented.

The Young Men's Christian Association spreads broadcast the tidings: "We have just such a place for

you. Have your fun with us."

No pledge is required as the price of affiliation. The agnostic is no less welcome than the believer. True, the Association hopes that its members will eventually elect to subscribe to the tenets of some religion. Its home is no temple of sanctimony, however. It does not intend to prescribe even homeopathic doses of orthodoxy. It has no predilection for any sect. Protestant and Catholic, Moslem and Pagan are all the same to it. It subscribes to the creed that if a man is healthy in mind and in body and can exercise mind and body under fortuitous conditions, the man will work out his own salvation in a personal sort of way.

The make-up of the Warren district suggests that this campaign will, indeed, be a "whirlwind" affair. We have REAL men here, the kind that are eager to get-up with other MEN. The Association maintains a place for just such meetings. Mothers endorse such a place. Wives needn't worry if their husbands spend reasonable time in such a place.

There are a few of the reasons why the campaign is a matter in which the entire community is interested. These are a few of the reasons why the community MUST carry the project forward to splendid success. It is the community that is on trial, not the Y. M. C. A. We opine that the community will make good.

POISON AS A WEAPON

We are losing our capacity for being shocked. As the war adds one barbarity to another, we can do little more than append it to the already long list of horrors and the breaches of law and morals. We can therefore merely chronicle the use of poisonous gas as a weapon for the first time, apparently, in modern "civilized" warfare, and register the fact that Germany—to put the matter in the most kindly way—has added another great mistake to her Belgian aggression and her lawless submarine warfare.

Like the others, this is a mistake that may cost her dearly in the final terms of settlement, and will surely cost her in the world's good opinion more than she can hope to gain by any temporary military advantage.

There have been occasional rumors during the war of the employment of asphyxiating gas bombs, on both sides, though no proof was given. The evidence, however, of the employment of chlorine or some other poisonous gas in large quantities by the Germans in their attack on the allied trenches north of Ypres seems conclusive. The French and British reports are detailed and specific, and the Germans have made no denial.

The ruse was not entirely unexpected. It was clearly foreshadowed in a statement issued to the British newspapers about three weeks ago by an official "eyewitness" at the front, who said:

"It has been reported that in the Argonne, where the trenches are very close, the Germans have on several occasions, pumped blazing oil or pitch on the French; but, according to the statements of our prisoners, they are preparing a more novel reception for us in front of parts of our line. They propose to asphyxiate our men, if they advance, by means of poisonous gas. The gas is contained in steel cylinders, and being of a heavy nature, will spread along the ground without being dissipated quickly."

It is generally believed that the gas used was chlorine, discharged in the form of liquid when the wind was in the right quarter to carry the fumes toward the enemy. Chlorine evaporates quickly, making a yellow gas, three times as heavy as air. This gas, it seems, being blown toward the British lines, flowed down into their trenches and drove from the field all those who were not immediately overcome by it. Observers reported afterward that all the ground in the vicinity was yellowed by the powerful fumes.

The Hague convention of 1907, generally regarded as the best expression of international law and custom, expressly forbids belligerents "to employ poison or poisoned arms." Germany did not ratify that document. In common with all the powers, however, except Turkey, Germany signed the Hague conventions of 1864, which are still supposed to be effective, and which included the same prohibition of poison or poisoned arms.

So here, it seems, is another "scrap of paper." And if the Frankfurter Zeitung, a powerful and representative German newspaper, is correctly quoted, it justified the procedure in this cool fashion:

"Does the enemy really believe that it makes any difference whether hundreds of guns and mortars are hundreds of thousands of grenades of all calibres are thrown onto a small district, tearing every living thing to pieces and turning the German trenches into an inferno, as was done at Neuve Chapelle, or whether the Germans fling grenades that spread deadly gas, spreading over a wider area and obtaining their end quicker and without the pain and suffering of torn bodies?"

Here again is a strange ignoring of the legal obligations of a civilized power. It seems to be assumed that law or morality or pledged faith doesn't "make any difference" when a nation is at war. Any advantage taken of the enemy, regardless of international agreements intended to mitigate the rigors of war, is permissible. "Military necessity," which is to say, the desire for victory, justifies everything.

It's the philosophy of Nietzsche put into practice. Nietzsche's "superman," his hypothetical "Great, Blond Deam" of the future, would doubtless think it quite as legitimate to kill an enemy by poisoning his air unexposed to chlorine or hydrocyanic acid as to kill him with bullets or bayonet in fair combat.

New York ministers have decided to go ahead and convert sinners without waiting for Billy Sunday to come and hold revival services. That may be all right, but it's very irregular.

CANNED TALK OPENED BY LINES RESULTED IN ROUTE OF "BUNCH"

Authors of So-Called Administration Statement are Discredited Following Its Presentation in the Lower House.

PHOENIX, May 3.—Interest has not abated in the statement made in the lower house last Thursday by Representative Lines. Facts concerning the statement are just becoming known. It was prepared by a group of the administration representatives and was held pending its use when opportunity seems to justify. As prepared originally, it carried this heading: "The Corporation Bunch vs. The Administration Bunch, or How it Happened."

Numerous times in his remarks, Mr. Lines deviated from the prepared manuscript. He failed to comply with demands for proof of several of his charges. The net results of his efforts were repudiation of the statement, a loss of personal favor, and the discrediting of the so-called administration "bunch" which inspired the refusal. The text was as follows:

"In the Arizona Gazette of the 27th inst. appears the report of a speech delivered in the senate chamber by the junior senator from Maricopa county, who styles himself 'The Champion of the Rights of the People.' The speech in question is a mass of misrepresentation and is a deliberate attempt on the part of the senator to reflect upon the motives of a number of men who in all probability are as much entitled to be considered as fighting for the people's rights as is the senator himself."

"What was it that started the fight between the senate and the House and between the two factions in the House itself? Was it not the introduction into the two houses of the bill commonly known as the 'Mine Tax Bill'? Most assuredly it was. And who were the sponsors of that bill? Was not the junior senator from Maricopa a leader among them? The record shows that he was. Now, in whose particular interest was the Mine Tax Bill introduced? Was it not in the interest of the mining corporations of the state? The bill itself answers in the affirmative by declaring 'that its object was to provide a special means for ascertaining the value of mines for purposes of taxation.' And in the face of these facts the senator exults himself to be the special champion of the people's cause. Right here we desire to call the attention of this would-be knight, who, ensconced in his corporation armor and backed by corporation gold, proclaims himself to be wholly on the side of the people, to the scriptural warning, 'Pride goeth before a fall,' and again: 'He that exalteth himself shall be abased.'"

"In the senator's speech, among other things, he says: 'There are certain members of the house who have named themselves the administration bunch.' We know how they blocked legislation in the regular session." The senator, however, very modestly refrains from specifying just how this so-called administration bunch performed the blocking act, and it will be our pleasure to supply the information this corporation knight was afraid to give. Here are the facts briefly stated, everyone of which can be proven to the entire satisfaction of any reasonable person.

"Following the introduction of the Mine Tax Bill in the senate and house, and just as soon as it became evident to its advocates that it would meet its chief opposition in the House, a word of very different character was transmitted through certain members of the senate that if the House did not cease its opposition to the bill, things would begin to happen, and that certain House bills of vital importance to the state, among which was the General Appropriation Bill, would never get through the senate."

"The House did not cease in its opposition to the Mine Tax Bill and things began to happen on schedule time. The first bill marked for the slaughter was House Bill No. 2, the Powers Prohibition bill, a measure which the people of the state had, by constitutional mandate, enjoined the legislature to pass. The vote on this measure in the House showed every mine tax advocate with the single exception of Goodwin of Maricopa voting against it, something more than mere coincidence. The significance of this vote will be more fully appreciated by a careful consideration of the closing hours of the session. The Mine Tax Bill after passing the senate, went down to defeat in the House, and from that day the fight between the two factions became a bitter one indeed; and as the closing days of the session drew near, it became plainly evident that one of three things must happen. The advocates of the Mine Tax Bill must recede from their very evident determination to pass the measure or to hold up all other important legislation until it was passed, or the opponents of the Mine Tax Bill must recede from their equally evident determination not to pass the measure no matter what the cost of defeating it should be, or there must of necessity be a special session of the legislature."

"Now, which of these two factions must bear the blame for the present extra session?"

"Come with me gentlemen while

IT'S A LONG WAY TO CONSTANTINOPLE



MARSHALL DEPARTS WITH ADVICE THAT ARIZONA BE LOYAL

Vice President Counsels State to Act in Manner Which will Not Subject the Commonwealth to Criticism.

PHOENIX, May 3.—Vice President Marshall has written a letter to the Arizona legislature in answer to their invitation that he address a joint session in which he states it is impossible to avail himself of the invitation.

"I am in receipt of your very kind invitation to address you. I thank you for the good will and confidence expressed in it, and hope and believe that you will put construe my failure to accept as arising either from a lack of appreciation of the honor done me by you, or from a want of friendly interest in you individually and officially."

"Compelled to leave upon Monday, my time is so fully occupied that I can not inform myself sufficiently upon any subject about which you have an interest so as to speak intelligently to you. Immature opinions to the public at large are not very dangerous. There is time for revision before action. But on sacred are the obligations of the legislator to the whole people that I dare not even take the chance of swaying in the wrong direction the mind of some friend."

"I am sure you will pardon a friend of Arizona when he says that the only prescription for public life consists of equal parts of intelligence, knowledge, honesty and self-forgetfulness. And I am certain that you join with me in the hope that whatever you do, you will not act so as to give genuine cause for the criticism that you have not been the friends of your loved Commonwealth."

"Again expressing my deep appreciation of your kindness, and wishing that you may love Arizona and that Arizona may love you, I am."

We consider the closing days of the regular session. When it became plainly evident that, in order to pass the appropriation bill and thus make unnecessary an extra session, it would be necessary to give the appropriation bill the right of way over all other bills in committee of the whole in the House, a motion to that effect was made by one of the so-called administration bunch. It called upon the motion showed the mine tax advocates to a man voting against the motion and to a man supporting it. The records of the closing hours of that memorable session show conclusively that the men upon whom the senator from Maricopa attempts to fix the blame for the extra session were doing everything in their power to pass the appropriation bill and thus render an extra session with its attendant expense unnecessary. The record also shows that as conclusively that the advocates of the mine tax bill were leaving no stone unturned in their efforts to block its progress. This fact became so plainly evident as the session drew to its close that even the "Arizona Gazette," that prince of propagandists among newspapers, and

(Continued on Page Light).



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